In the Claims:

1. (Original) A method comprising:

    receiving user-input configuration changes to a configuration file;

    tracking the configuration changes in multiple independent edit views;

    updating an active edit view to include configuration changes of a single independent edit view; and

    updating a configuration database that stores the configuration file, according to the configuration changes in the active edit view.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising checking [[the]] syntax and semantics of the active edit view before updating the configuration database.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising updating other independent edit views based on changes in the active edit view.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising generating a list of changes to the configuration file in the configuration database based on the updating of the configuration database.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising identifying a conflict between an independent edit view and the list of changes.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein a conflict includes a modification to an element included in both the list of changes and the independent edit view.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising resolving the conflict between the independent edit view and the list of changes.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein resolving the conflict includes updating the independent edit view based on the active edit view such that the independent edit view includes the changes to the configuration database.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein resolving the conflict includes discarding the changes and applying a different independent edit view to the active edit view.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein resolving the conflict includes resolving multiple conflicts on an individual basis.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for executing instructions on a processor, the computer program product being operable to cause a machine to~~ readable medium having software comprising instructions for instructing a computer to:

        receive user-input configuration changes to a configuration file;

        track the configuration changes in multiple independent edit views;

        update an active edit view to include configuration changes of a single independent edit view; and

        update a configuration database that stores the configuration file, according to the configuration changes in the active edit view.

12.   (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~ readable medium of claim 11 ~~being operable to~~ wherein the software comprises further instructions for instructing a computer to check [[the]] syntax and semantics of the active edit view before updating the configuration database.

13.   (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~ readable medium of claim 11 ~~being operable to~~ wherein the software comprises further instructions for instructing a computer to update other independent edit views based on changes in the active edit view.

14.   (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~ readable medium of claim 11 ~~being operable to~~ wherein the software comprises further instructions for instructing a computer to generate a list of changes to the configuration file in the configuration database based on the updating of the configuration database.

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15.   (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable medium</u> of claim ~~11 being operable to~~ <u>14 wherein the software comprises further instructions for instructing a computer to</u> identify a conflict between an independent edit view and the list of changes.

16.   (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program product~~ <u>readable medium</u> of claim 15 ~~being operable to~~ <u>wherein the software comprises further instructions for instructing a computer to</u> resolve the conflict between the independent edit view and the list of changes.

17.   (Currently Amended) A system ~~configured to~~ <u>comprising</u>:
        <u>a database; and</u>
        <u>one or more user terminals for making configuration changes and a processor adapted to:</u>
                receive user-input configuration changes to a configuration file;
                track the configuration changes in multiple independent edit views;
                update an active edit view to include configuration changes of a single independent edit view; and
                update a configuration database that stores the configuration file, according to configuration changes in the active edit view.

18.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17<u>, wherein the processor is further adapted to</u> further configured to check [[the]] syntax and semantics of the active edit view before updating the configuration database.

19.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17<u>, wherein the processor is further adapted to</u> ~~further configured to~~ update other independent edit views based on changes in the active edit view.

20.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17<u>, wherein the processor is further adapted to</u> ~~further configured to~~ generate a list of changes to the configuration file in the configuration database based on the updating of the configuration database.

21.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[17]] 20, wherein the processor is further adapted to further configured to identify conflicts between an independent edit view and the list of changes.

22.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, wherein the processor is further adapted to further configured to resolve the conflict between the independent edit view and the list of changes.